
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
STATE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM TO
IDENTIFY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS AND PROPOSE INITIATIVES TO
IMPROVE THE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for
2 administering and maintaining the State Comprehensive Emergency
3 Medical Services System by planning, coordinating, and providing
4 assistance to all public and private entities and agencies
5 involved in the state system, and ensuring that all emergency
6 medical services or ambulance services conducted by or under the
7 authorization of the Department of Health or any county are
8 consistent with part XVIII, chapter 321, Hawaii Revised
9 Statutes; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services
12 System provides for the arrangement of personnel, facilities,
13 and equipment, primarily in the pre-hospital setting, for the
14 effective and coordinated delivery of health care services under
15 emergency conditions, irrespective of the cause of the emergency
16 conditions; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services
19 System provides personnel, personnel training, communications,
20 emergency transportation, facilities, coordination with
21 emergency medical and critical care services, coordination and
22 use of available public safety agencies, promotion of consumer
23 participation, accessibility to care, mandatory standard medical
24 recordkeeping, consumer information and education, independent
25 review and evaluation, disaster linkage, mutual aid agreements,
26 and other components necessary to meet the purposes of the state
27 comprehensive system; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for
30 establishing standards for emergency medical services, an
31 emergency medical services system consistent with the State
32 Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System and applicable



1 federal guidelines for those services, and regulation of
2 ambulances within the State, including the certification of
3 vehicles, equipment, supplies, and communication systems; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory
6 Committee is administratively attached to the Department of
7 Health and serves the Department in an advisory capacity on all
8 matters relating to the State Comprehensive Emergency Medical
9 Services System; and
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11 WHEREAS, in consultation with the State Emergency Medical
12 Services Advisory Committee, the Department of Health is
13 responsible for determining the levels of emergency medical
14 services that are implemented in each county; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is authorized to contract
17 to provide emergency medical services, including emergency
18 aeromedical services, or any necessary component of a county
19 emergency services system in accordance with the State
20 Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for
23 establishing reasonable fees for services rendered to the public
24 by the Department of Health, any county, or private agency; and
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26 WHEREAS, to fulfill the duties of the Emergency Medical
27 Services and Injury Prevention System Branch, it is imperative
28 that the Department of Health strive to ensure that the State
29 Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System is efficiently
30 maintained and effectively provides emergency services; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has been in discussions
33 with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
34 to obtain the NHTSA's services to perform a review of the state
35 system, including both state and county components, which will
36 be the first such review since 1991; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
39 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
40 Department of Health is requested to conduct a study on the
41 State Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System to



1 identify issues and problems and propose initiatives to improve
2 the system; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
6 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
7 2020 that includes:
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9 (1) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, associated with its study of the State
11 Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services System; and
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13 (2) An update to the Legislature on the outcome, findings,
14 and other relevant information obtained as a result of
15 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
16 review; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

